



# MEDIA RELEASE

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**

**375th Airlift Wing  
Public Affairs Office  
Scott AFB IL 62225-5004**

Phone: (618) 256-4241/4206  
FAX: (618) 256-8837

**Sept. 9, 2003  
Release Number: 03-09-04**

## **WWII WOMEN'S AIR SERVICE PILOT TO SPEAK AT AF BALL**

**SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, ILL.** – Florene Miller Watson, one of the original members of the Women's Auxiliary Ferry Squadron (WAFS), later known as the Women's Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs), and one of its first commanding officers is scheduled as the guest speaker at the 56<sup>th</sup> annual Air Force Ball Sept. 19 at the Scott Air Force Base club.

During a time when women were subjected to double standards and unfair discrimination in the military, Watson distinguished herself as a WASP during WWII. She was one of only 25 women who qualified for the original Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron at Love Field in Dallas, Texas, and she logged more than 1,100 hours of flying time in several different airframes.

Today, Watson is an active member of numerous organizations to include the Texas Aviation Historical Society, the Ninety-Nines, and the Confederate Air Force. She has been serving as the National Chaplain of the WASPs organization for the last 13 years. In addition, she actively speaks around the country, educating audiences about aviation history.

**For more information on this release, contact TSgt. Steve Horton at (618) 256-4241**